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SENATOR INGALLS' PUBLIC RECORD.

Value of Title to Senator Ingalls' Seat for the Second Term.

The triumph of John J. Ingalls, on January 29th, 1873, to a seat in the Senate, showed that he had about ninety per cent of the vote cast, consequent upon Pomeroy's collapse. On January 31, 1879, after a four days' struggle, he had about fifty-one per cent of the legislative vote, having had four majority in the senate, while in the house of representatives he lacked one vote of a majority.

The senators were elected in 1876 and the representatives in 1878, so it may be noticed that after the most violent efforts to obtain an enduring strength in the popular branch of the legislature, Senator Ingalls obtained sixty-four out of the one hundred and twenty-nine members. The Kansas House of Representatives on February 6th, 1879, on a question of privilege, adopted a resolution offered by Hon. Dexter E. Clapp, by a vote of sixty-eight to fifty-six.

PROVISION FOR INVESTIGATION OF THE ELECTION.

The preambles and resolutions adopted charged bribery and corruption in the matter of the election of United States Senator, and a committee of five was appointed by the Speaker of the House to institute an investigation into the charges of wrong doing connected with the senatorial election. This investigating committee presented three reports, one of which was signed by three of the members; and the others, each by one member. In one of these reports the following language occurs:

Senator Ingalls, James S. Merritt, J. S. Dandford and Calvin Hood, employed corrupt and illegal means to secure the election of the said J. J. Ingalls to the United States Senate, and but for said improper influences his election would not have been obtained.

An individual member of the committee said:

The senatorial elector should live in an atmosphere of purity; his person should be unapproachable, and his conclusions and judgment should be held as sacred as the deliberations of the juror in the box, or of the judge upon the bench.

INVESTIGATION TRANSFERRED FROM TOPEKA TO WASHINGTON.

The United States Senate was memorialized by members of the Kansas Legislature, and Senator Ingalls' case finally came before the senate committee on privileges and elections, and in September, 1879, a sub-committee of the same came to Topeka to take testimony, consisting of Senators Saulsbury, of Delaware; Vance, of North Carolina; Bailey, of Tennessee; Logan, of Illinois, and Cameron, of Wisconsin.

The committee made their report on



B. F. FOSTER.

People's Candidate for State Auditor.

February 17, 1880—twelve and one-half months after Ingalls' election, returning a sort of Scotch verdict, and receiving a discharge.

The result arrived at, appears below; and a minority report, signed by Senators Cameron, Logan and Hoar imply corruption on all lines of the contest; especially in the opposition:

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

Resolved, That the testimony taken by the committee proves that bribery and other corrupt means were employed by persons favoring the election of Hon. John J. Ingalls to the Senate to obtain for him the vote of members of the legislature of Kansas in the senatorial election in that state. But it is not proved by the testimony that enough votes were secured by such means to determine the result of the election in his favor nor is it shown that Senator Ingalls authorized acts of bribery to secure his election.

MINORITY REPORT.

We concur in part of the report. We exonerate Mr. Ingalls from any complicity with improper practices. We also find that the result of the election was not accomplished by such practices. We think that when the report goes further and finds that persons favoring Mr. Ingalls' election were guilty of such practices, it should in justice state what was clearly and unquestionably proved that such means were employed in opposition to his election.

THE INGALLS HERO OF 1879 FROM CHAWFORD COUNTY.

Hon. James A. Hossack, of Girard, was one of the political beauties who advanced the fortunes of Senator Ingalls in this memorable contest of his. Let the following copy of a letter explain the euphonious and felicitous reciprocities:

TOPEKA, Kan., January 30, 1879.

I hereby certify that, as a member of the legislature of the state of Kansas, I was approached personally by John J. Ingalls for my vote, and was offered money provided I would vote for him. The sum agreed upon was one thousand dollars (\$1,000), \$500 to be paid down, and \$500 the 1st of March. I was referred by Mr. Ingalls to J. Merritt and J. Milson, who paid me the \$500, and Mr. Ingalls agreed to pay me the remaining \$500 the 1st of March.

J. A. HOSSACK.

Witness to this signature,
E. H. BROWN.

"E. H. Brown," for short called "Ed Brown," was on hand in the Kansas house of representatives of 1884, to vote for a third term for Ingalls in the United States Senate. "J. Wilson," which means Joseph C. Wilson, clerk of the United States district court for Kansas, was then, as at this period, the Topeka devoted henchman of Ingalls; but "J. Merritt,"

who was the renowned James S. Merritt, of Wamego, was in the Providence hospital at Washington, D. C., and in the proceedings of the Kansas house of representatives of March 2, 1885, the following appears:

By consent, Mr. Finch (Lewis E. Finch, of Osage county) offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

Resolved, that the speaker appoint a committee of five to draft resolutions expressive of the regret of the house at the untimely death of the Hon. J. S. Merritt, and that in respect to his memory the house do now adjourn until 2 o'clock this afternoon.

Mr. Anthony (Ex-Governor George T. Anthony of Leavenworth) moved to amend the resolution so it shall read that the house as a body proceed to the depot, which motion prevailed.

Now be it remembered, that the last legislative service Mr. Merritt had performed was in the session of 1877, when Mr. Anthony was governor.

F. M. Shaw, a banker and broker at Paola, Miami county, on February 22, 1879, on his oath said:

On the 3d of this month a gentleman came to my house and I took him to Crawford county to show him a farm I had down there. That evening I was at Mr. Playter's office (Frank Playter, a banker, at Girard), and I said to him, "Well, Frank, I have not seen you since we got beat at Topeka." He said, "No." I said to him, "If you had got Hossack to vote for Horton, he would now be United States Senator instead of Ingalls." He said yes, he wished he had. I asked him if he had the paper still that Hossack signed. I asked him to let me see it. He did so. I read it at that time, and knew the signature of Mr. Hossack; also that of Mr. Brown. The instrument was in the handwriting of Mr. Playter; it was on one of the letter heads of the Tefft House. That was the original paper, and the first time I had seen it. I am not acquainted with Mr. Hossack personally; I only heard that he was a commercial man; I mean by that, that he was ready to trade or sell out.

Hon. E. H. Brown, on February 27, 1879, said under oath:

I knew the signature of Mr. Hossack and therefore signed the paper as a witness to it.

WHAT THE TOPEKA CAPITAL HAD TO SAY OF THESE PROCEEDINGS.

As an evidence of fair speech and candor with one's readers, the *Capital* of February 19, said:

The verdict of the senate committee against Mr. Ingalls' advisers and managers is a verdict against him, and the judgment of his constituents at home will so consider it, notwithstanding his technical acquittal. The men who manipulated the hiring Legislators were not mere clerks; they were interested advisers, personal friends and trusted confidential agents, and the common sophistry offered to excuse a sensational candidate who purchased the votes of commercial members is that people should send better men.

The political power of Mr. Ingalls is gone. He could not be re-elected to-day, and he has nobody to thank for this fall but himself. He will take his place in the political mausoleum of Kansas, among those who failed to remember the simple lesson that honesty is the best policy.

"THE REPUBLICANS OF KANSAS DO NOT NEED A DICTATOR."

So said the *Capital* in its issue of Feb-

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